RALPH T. HUDGENS COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER COMPTROLLER GENERAL

> Seventh Floor, West Tower 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Atlanta, Georgia 30334 WWW.OCI.ga.goV

For Immediate Release May 20, 2011

Contact: Matt Kilgallen

404-651-7902

PublicInformation@oci.ga.gov

HUDGENS ANNOUNCES REWARD IN RICHMOND COUNTY ARSON CASE

Atlanta - Drew Lane, Fraud Unit Director/Arson Unit Case Manager, for Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph T. Hudgens and Randy Bishop of the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc., presented a reward check totaling \$2,250 to a citizen of Richmond County. The individual provided information on a burglary and fire at an ROTC Armory that led to the conviction of an arsonist.

The check in the amount of \$2,250, was presented to Lt. Brian Tucker of the Hephzibah Fire Department in a brief ceremony. The reward will be forwarded to the recipient, who has chosen to remain anonymous, Commissioner Hudgens said.

Commissioner Hudgens and the Georgia Arson Control Board, Inc. (GAC), sponsor the Georgia Arson Control Reward Program and the Georgia Arson Hotline. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are given for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. Anyone with information about a suspicious fire is asked to call the hotline at **1-800-282-5804**. Calls are taken 24 hours a day; callers can choose to remain anonymous.

Since its inception in 1979, GAC has approved over 500 rewards totaling \$1.6 million.